

FEB 26 1990

Robert L. Geddes
Senior Environmental Engineer
Monsanto Chemicals Co.
P.O. Box 816
Soda Springs, Idaho 83276

Dear Mr. Geddes:

Hab: This is in response to your January 23, 1990, letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Deputy Administrator Henry Habicht concerning the Monsanto Chemical Co. (Soda Springs Plant) site in Idaho. This site was proposed to the National Priorities List (NPL) on May 5, 1989 (54 FR 19526). EPA is currently evaluating comments received on the proposed listing and anticipates making a final decision within the next several months.

Your letter presented several reasons why you believe the site should not be placed on the NPL. These reasons, as well as supporting documentation, have been communicated to EPA in previous correspondences and meetings. I can assure you that EPA will thoroughly examine the concerns raised and information submitted by Monsanto before making a final decision on this site. In addition, EPA will respond in a support document to comments received on the scoring of this site. This support document will be publicly available at the time a final decision on the site is announced in the Federal Register.

You had requested that Mr. Robie Russell be consulted on the listing of this site. Although Mr. Russell is no longer Regional Administrator for the EPA Region 10 Office, we will work closely with the Region in making a final decision.

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I also would like to point out that the primary purpose of the NPL is informational, identifying for the public those sites and facilities that appear to warrant further investigation. The mere inclusion of a site on the NPL does not represent a final determination that further remedial action is warranted or will be taken.

I hope this has been responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Don R. Clay
Assistant Administrator